

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to the authority of M.G.L. c. 118E and in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, a remote public hearing will be held on Friday, February 25, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. relative to the adoption of:

101 CMR 351.00: Rates of Payment for Certain Adult Foster Care Services

The proposed amendments to 101 CMR 351.00 establish a rate by regulation for group adult foster care (GAFC) services. The GAFC rate is being updated to the FY2019 rebased median unit cost calculated by excluding both occupancy costs and outliers. A retrospective cost adjustment factor (CAF) of 5.46% was then applied to that median to develop the proposed rate of \$41.92 per day. This CAF was developed using a base period of quarter four of calendar year 2019 and a prospective rate period of quarter three of calendar year 2022 through quarter two of calendar year 2023. The CAF was calculated using the optimistic forecast of the Massachusetts-specific Consumer Price Index (CPI) Spring 2021 developed by IHS Markit Economics.

The proposed amendments to this regulation result in an estimated increase in annual aggregated expenditures of \$2.99 million, which is a 3.9% increase over base spending of \$75.7 million.

The effective date of the rate contained in the proposed amendments is August 1, 2022. There is no fiscal impact on cities and towns.

To register to testify at the hearing and to get instructions on how to join the hearing online, go to www.mass.gov/service-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings. To join the hearing by phone, call (646) 558-8656 and enter meeting ID 935 397 8200# when prompted.

You may also submit written testimony instead of, or in addition to, live testimony. To submit written testimony, please email your testimony to ehs-regulations@mass.gov as an attached Word or PDF document or as text within the body of the email with the name of the regulation in the subject line. All written testimony must include the sender's full name, mailing address, and organization or affiliation, if any. Individuals who are unable to submit testimony by email should mail written testimony to EOHHS, c/o D. Briggs, 100 Hancock Street, 6th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171. Written testimony will be accepted through 5:00 p.m. on February 25, 2022. EOHHS specifically invites comments as to how the amendments may affect beneficiary access to care.

To review the current draft of the proposed actions, go to www.mass.gov/service-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings or request a copy

in writing from MassHealth Publications, 100 Hancock Street, 6th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171.

Special accommodation requests may be directed to the Disability Accommodations Ombudsman by email at ADAAccommodations@mass.gov or by phone at (617) 847-3468 (TTY: (617) 847-3788 for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabled). Please allow two weeks to schedule sign language interpreters.

EOHHS may adopt a final, revised version of the proposed actions taking into account relevant comments and any other practical alternatives that come to its attention.

In case of inclement weather or other emergency, hearing cancellation announcements will be posted on the MassHealth website at www.mass.gov/service-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings.

February 4, 2022